

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Spring Peeper



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

April Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you. To be added to our email list, send an email to dunesnc@dnr.in.gov

Saturday April 3

8am-1pm 14th Annual Native Plant Sale!

Join the Friends of Indiana Dunes as the 14th Annual Native Plant Sale takes place all morning in the State Park Pavilion. Over 100 species of hard to find native plants will be on sale that day. Come early, before they're gone. More info can be found at www.friendsofindianadunes.org, or call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

10am Early Spring Wildflowers! Join the naturalist for an easy stroll through the dune woodlands in search of the first signs of spring! We'll be on the look out for early spring wildflowers. Meet at the Nature Center for this 1 hour stroll. BB

2pm Dunes Creek Restoration Tour. You may notice the construction going on now at the main beach parking lot. Meet the interpreter at the Campground Gate for a 45-minute tour of some of the creek restoration, or "daylighting," that is occurring here this spring. DG

Sunday April 4

Happy Easter!

10am Easter Bird Feast. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm Bird Banding Demonstrations. Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for a fun look at the science of bird banding. We'll have many birds in the hand and up close for all to see. Check us out on the Nature Center front deck. Great family! BB

Friday April 9

11am Singing Sands Preschool Hour. Join us each Friday in April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "Earth Day"**

Saturday April 10

10am Water Bottle Greenhouses. Winter's not leaving yet, but we can still enjoy some sights of spring in our own home with this special recyclable greenhouse craft. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium to make your own special craft to take home. DLG

2pm To the Beaver Lodge and Back! Meet the naturalist for a 45-minute easy stroll as we take you to the mammoth beaver lodge at the dunes! Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Nature Center. DG

Sunday April 11

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

Friday April 16

11am Singing Sands Preschool Hour. Join us each Friday in April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "Raccoons"**



Saturday April 17

Visit the Dunes staff at the Earth Day festivities at Sunset Farm County Park!

10am The Singing Sands! Blow your way into the Nature Center Auditorium as we look at the sands of the dunes! Learn why we are called the singing sands and get some close up looks at sands from other beaches in the world! Fascinating fun!

2pm Garlic Mustard Massacre. Join the Indiana Dunes State Park as we promote "Healthy Parks, Healthy People". Meet at the Nature Center for a short stroll exploring the plant life of the dunes. We'll also be stopping to eliminate the invasive plant garlic mustard along the way. It's a great way to get in shape and help the park stay healthy. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

Sunday April 18

9am Early Migration Birding. Meet at the Campground Gate for some early bird migration. We'll be seeking out the first warblers, flycatchers, and other birds along Trail 2. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. Join us! BB

2pm Mapping the Dunes Through Time. Using new technology, join us in the Nature Center Auditorium and explore how the dunes have changed as we overlay historical maps for a comparison to what we see today. Great program for the history buffs. BB

Friday April 23

11am Singing Sands Preschool Hour. Join us each Friday in April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "Bats"**

Saturday April 24

10am Dune Geology. Explore the early history of the dunes area with Dale this morning. Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for an interesting look at our dunes geology.

2pm Snakes, Frogs, and a Salamander! Join the naturalist in the Nature Center for a 30 minutes program on snake, frogs, and salamanders. Participants will get an up close look at live animals. After the program we will go and look for the creatures in their own habitat. DG

Sunday April 25

10am Ecology of a Sand Dune. Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk into the high dunes. We'll explore its creation on this hour hike. DG

2pm Critter Feeding Hour! Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DG

Tuesday April 27

7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club. Image Makers is an informal nature photo club that meets once a month at the Nature Center. Bring your favorite photo to share or just enjoy photos from other nature photo enthusiasts. Join us!

Friday April 30

11am Singing Sands Preschool Hour. Join us each Friday in April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "Trees"**

Saturday May 1

Welcome Back Weekend!

Special activities going on all weekend.

10am Dune Wetland Discovery. Explore the swamp this afternoon with guest naturalist Deanna! We'll meet at the Nature Center and bring our dip nets to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Bring the kids!

2pm Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

8pm Whooo Goes There...! You do on this creature of the night program! Meet the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the owls that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll also venture outside (possible car pool) so we can try to "hoot" some up! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. BB

Sunday May 2

9am Coffee and Birds Meet at the Campstore (by the campground gate) for a fresh air jaunt in search of the late-migrating birds in the area. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Fresh coffee for sale in the Campstore before the hike. BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Park Interpreters have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov